

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1961

GSA #1359 ✓

Approximately 18,700 long tons of surplus tin slag containing valuable columbium and tantalum will be offered for intra-Government transfer or public sale by the General Services Administration in about two months.

Under modern recovery methods, the slag is capable of producing a high yield of columbium and tantalum.

Because the material is in the supplemental stockpile and not the national stockpile, its disposal may be undertaken without delay.

Columbium is an important element in certain stainless steels, high temperature alloys and nuclear applications. Tantalum is used primarily by chemical process industries for anti-corrosion purposes and as a catalyst.

The Government's surplus supply of slag was produced in Malaya as a byproduct of tin smelting and was acquired for the nation's reserve supply of defense materials for the columbium and tantalum it contained.

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